



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Huntington District

Marmet Locks and Dam Replacement Project

July 2004 Issue No. 9

This monthly newsletter is provided as a courtesy of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as a way to keep the citizens of Belle, W.Va. up-to-date on activities during construction of the replacement lock at Marmet locks and dam. The newsletter will provide information on current and future activities throughout the construction of the replacement lock to those who expressed an interest in receiving the newsletter from previous editions.

If you know someone who would like to receive future copies, complete the form on the back page.

Information Meeting

The Corps of Engineers and Marmet lock replacement contractor Kokosing Fru-Con will conduct an information workshop/open house regarding the Marmet Lock replacement project **Thursday, September 16, 2004**, at the offices of Kokosing Fru-Con located at 1901 West Dupont Avenue. The public is invited to stop by anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The workshop will provide information about the ongoing construction activities and seek input on how the Corps and contractor can reduce impacts to the surrounding communities. Representatives from the Corps and Kokosing Fru-Con will be available to answer questions. As in the past, tours of the construction site will be offered.

For more information, contact Mike Keathley at 304-399-5864 or email Michael.Keathley@lth01.usace.army.mil.

Construction Activities

by Kokosing Fru-Con

Much of the rock excavation necessary to reach the best foundation elevation will require very controlled drilling and blasting. The drilling and blasting is occurring immediately adjacent to the existing lock during daylight hours. This much discussed drilling and blasting operation began June 22, 2004 with more of a “pop” than a “bang”. The contractor is now routinely drilling and blasting the foundation rock with two shots a day at noon and 5:30 p.m. The amount of blast induced-vibration is strictly controlled by contract so as to eliminate the possibility of damage to the existing lock, neighboring homes and businesses. Seismographs monitor each and every shot to insure that blast-induced vibrations remain well within the prescribed contract limits. To date the vibration levels at W. 19th Street and at Dupont have not been large enough to measure.

The contractor intends to crush the rock excavation material on site for use as fill behind the new lock walls. Current plans call for the erection of a rock crushing plant at the end of W. 19th Street. The rock will be stockpiled upstream between W. 14th Street and W. 19th Street.

Work has begun on the downstream portion of the downstream guidewall. As the name implies, the guidewall will guide river traffic into and out of the downstream approach to the new lock. The contractor will first excavate to bedrock and set steel sheetpile cells to be filled with concrete. The concrete filled cells provide the foundation for the mass concrete walls which form the downstream guidewall.

September will see the return of the pile driving equipment. The circular sheet pile cells and connecting arcs which form the harbor headwall will be driven from original ground to bedrock beginning this September.

The contractor continues to aggressively pursue the completion of the project while the government is actively pursuing the necessary funding to ensure completion of the project is not delayed. An additional \$250 thousand dollars was recently added to the funds available for construction during fiscal year 2004.

The number of folks attending the quarterly open houses continues to grow. The next open house will be Thursday, September 16, 2004.

Who to contact for information:

Mike Keathley, Project Manager.....304-399-5864
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Peggy Noel, Public Affairs.....304-399-5551



Photo shows the downstream area of the project site. Excavation for the relocated Burning Springs channel is shown on the far left. The contractor's temporary river off-loading facility and conveyor system are shown in the lower center, and the excavation disposal embankment is shown in the upper center. File photo

Community Relations

- Contractor has been excavating rock using explosives for nearly a month, and we are pleased to report that all measured vibrations have been well below the established levels for the project. Seismographs have been placed at various locations throughout the project site. These seismographs are monitored on a daily basis, and readings indicate the levels are well within the acceptable range limits.
- As mentioned in the last newsletter, the contractor intends to use a rock crusher on the project site. The contractor plans to begin using the rock crusher early this fall. The Corps is continuing to review the contractor's plans for rock crushing to identify means of minimizing any adverse impacts to the community.

Visit our new Marmet Lock Replacement Project website to keep up-to-date on current construction activities.

<http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/Marmet/>

If you know someone who would like to receive future copies of the Marmet Newsletter, complete the form below and return to Mike Keathley, US Army Corps of Engineers, 502 8th Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070 or send us an email requesting to be added to the mailing list.

_____ Yes, I would like to receive the Marmet Lock Replacement Project Newsletter.

_____ Remove my name from your mailing list

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Photo shows the progression of concrete placements for the new lock walls. When completed the project will have nearly 300,000 cubic yards of concrete.

File photo.